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For more information please visit: International Scientific Cooperation



Europe-Canada Food Health & Wellness Twinning Workshop

On October 14, 2008, the Europe-Canada Food Health and Wellness Twinning Workshop was held in Brussels, Belgium, led by Michèle Marcotte. The meeting involved AAFC and the Theme 2 Food, Health and Well-Being section of the European Commission's 7th Framework Program for Research and Technological Development. The twenty-five participants from Canada and Europe identified five projects for twinning. The scientific discussions were positive and demonstrated the willingness of research scientists to cooperate. The next meeting is scheduled for 2009 in Canada and could be held in Guelph, Ontario.

Photo: Opening of the food workshop in Brussels, Belgium

Contact: Yvon Martel



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Science Delegation visits Beijing and Shenyang - Nov 7-9, 2008



During his last trip to China, Dr. Martel, Chief Scientist, International, signed two more cooperative arrangements (CA) strengthening the China-Canada Science and Innovation (CCS&I) platform with the establishment of two new CCS&I centres. This platform is intended to advance innovation in several agriculture areas on a mutually beneficial basis. The signing of the CAs, which formalized the ongoing cooperation, has paved the way to setting up the 5th and 6th CCS&I centres in China, one in Beijing and one in Shenyang. The Beijing centre will focus on safe agriculture production and involves the Beijing Agriculture and Forestry Academy and the Beijing Agriculture University. Besides the ongoing collaboration and exchanges in plant protection, control of soil-borne diseases, biocontrol and precision farming, planning is underway for a workshop to be held during the International Congress on Biological Invasions, November 2-6, 2009, Fuzhou, China. The Shenyang centre, under the leadership of the Municipality of Shenyang, will focus on ecological agriculture. In the past year, a scientist from Shenyang was trained in AAFC Ottawa in corn breeding for a year, and a joint workshop was held last fall in Shenyang.

The other four CCS&I centres were established in Baicheng of Jiling (oats development), Wuxi-Shanghai (food), Hohhot-Inner Mongolia (sustainable production: dairy, forage) and Yangling-Shaanxi (agriculture in arid climate). To keep the world-leader position in agriculture, Canada needs to maintain its strong presence in China and to grow with China as an agriculture science partner, given that China's agriculture S&T is advancing rapidly due to strong support from its government.

The Liaoning Chinese communist party committee member, Shenyang municipal party committee secretary Mr. Zeng Wei, and the Shenyang municipal Chinese communist party committee member, Secretary general Mr. Ma Zhanchun, participated in the signing ceremony, in part to recognize Canada's past contribution and the positive results achieved by joint Canadian and Chinese agriculture projects. The vice-mayor of Shenyang, Mr. Zou Dating, reported that the applications of bilateral research results, such as in oats and potatoes in the Kangping areas of Shenyang, have raised the annual income of farmers by 600 yuans (40%) a year per family.

Adapted from the report of Peter Chen, agriculture and food advisor, Canadian Embassy in China.

Photo: Ma Zhanchun, Johanne Boisvert, Yvon Martel, Zeng Wei, Zou Dating and Peter Chen

Contact: Joe Zhou



20th Meeting of German-Canadian Commission for Science



& Technological Cooperation

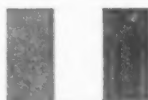
On November 6, 2008, the 20th meeting of the **German-Canadian Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation** took place in Munich. Dr. Dalia Kudirka attended on behalf of the ISCB. Representatives from Germany and Canada discussed current and future collaboration, focussing on five key research areas of common interest: Environment, Energy, Genomics, Nanotechnology and Arctic Research. Most of German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) research grants must contain 10% or more international collaboration (see *BMBF website*).

A Bilateral Workshop on Innovation Strategies and Tools was held before the commission meetings on November 5th. An overview of the innovation policies of both countries was provided. The German high-tech strategy focuses on public private partnerships and includes a program to strengthen smaller, leading-edge clusters ("Spitzencluster") using a competitive, bottom-up approach. Despite the fact that two-thirds of Germany's total R&D is performed by industry, public funds are still driving industrial research to a degree. Despite the substantial differences between the systems, measuring results was identified as a common challenge. The possibility of an expert workshop on performance measurement is to be explored.

In the area of health sciences, the Commission discussed the application of genomics, specifically in identifying antibiotic resistance and biotechnology advancements in food. Currently, Germany is developing a cross-ministerial initiative which will examine the resistance of antibiotics in livestock. The Commission also discussed the cooperation in agricultural genomics on Fusarium Headblight. Currently this project has the binational support of respective federal and provincial governments as well as industry.

A workshop entitled "Reducing Fusarium Toxins in Wheat Through Genomics-Guided Strategies" was held December 1-3, 2008 by the CABI-Canada project partners in Freising. This 3rd annual meeting of the research teams from Canada and Germany is developing a white paper to emphasize the possibilities and importance of further scientific collaboration between our two countries in an effort to search for continued funding.

Contact: Dalia Kudirka



Italy Campania region is looking to Canada for Science and

Innovation Cooperation

The Campania region in southern Italy, whose capital is Naples, aims at further developing international ties with North America, China and India. It is the second most populated region in Italy with 5.8 million people. Last September 2008, a successful regional major mission with representatives from various organisations visited several Canadian universities and industries, as well as AAFC research centres. In November 2008, as a follow-up, a smaller delegation composed of Professor Giovanna Ferrari, President of ProdAl, Mr. Salvatore Rodi, Director and Mrs Monika Biskup, Marketing Director, both from the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Canada, and Mr. Emanuele Fiore, Scientific Attaché, Italian Embassy, met with Dr. Yvon Martel, chief scientist, AAFC. ProdAl integrates the multidisciplinary capabilities and scientific and technological resources of 7 partners in agri-food. In December 15-17, 2008, Dr. Johanne Boisvert, director at ISCB, AAC joined a Canadian delegation of about 20 representatives from industry and universities. During the visit, cooperation opportunities and mechanisms were discussed with scientists and managers of ProdAl and BioTekNet, two of the ten regional Centres of competence. The common areas of interest are in food technology, bioproducts and bioprocess. Three avenues are considered: bridging projects, exchange of personal, and students training. BioTekNet is an integrated regional network of 8 institutions and organisations providing scientific, technological, economical and managerial know-how in the industrial biotechnology area including bioinformatics, fermentation, and proteomics. For the next step, AAC will host a small but targeted S&T delegation from ProdAl and BioTekNet early Spring 2009.



Photo: Yvon Martel, Giovanna Ferrari, Johanne Boisvert, Emanuele Fiore, Salvatore Rodi, Monika Biskup

Contact: Johanne Boisvert



The China-Canada Science and Innovation (CCSI) Centre on Food in the Food Research International Journal

In November 2008, Food Research International published a special edition (Volume 41, Issue 9) featuring a collection of papers presented during the AAFC Symposium on Cereal Sciences: *Research Advancement, Novel Technologies and Healthy-Food Products* and other symposiums of the 1st International Forum on Cereal Science (2006'IFCS), held in Jiangnan University, Wuxi, China on October 18 to 21, 2006. This special issue is dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of Jiangnan University (November 16, 2008) and the 1st Anniversary of the China-Canada Science & Innovation (CCS&I) Centre on Food. It presents the most recent research advances in cereal

science and technology in Canada and China. The theme of the forum was "Cereal Foods: Corporation and Opportunities Across Borders". It was sponsored by the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC), the Chinese Cereals and Oils Association (CCOA), the Jiangnan University and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). It provided the opportunity to exchange information and ideas on the benefits of developing functional ingredients from cereals and their impact on world food supply. About 150 oral presentations were well attended by more than 500 participants from both academia and industries, and from over 15 countries. The speakers addressed scientific aspects of ethical, convenient, healthy snacking, frozen, bakery and other cereal-based food categories, associated with the application of functional, bio-tech, safe and nutritional food ingredients and additives. China has become one of the five most important countries in the world. The cereal foods industry, which is the mainstream food industry in China, plays a critical role in this booming market.

Food Research International Journal



Photo: Food Research International Journal

Contact: Steve Cui



The Ministry of Education - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (MOE-AAFC) PhD Research Program is Well appreciated by the Participants

Since 2006, close to 60 Chinese students have achieved an one-year training in AAFC labs under the MOE-AAFC PhD Research Program. Most of them have prepared and sometimes even submitted, scientific papers at the end of their stay. Most importantly they have contributed in the development of new knowledge in AAFC. Supervisors are quite happy of those bright, conscientious, and dedicated young students. At the end of her one-year internship at ECORC with Dr. Neil McLaughlin, Ms. Yan Shen came to meet with Dr. Yvon Martel, on last November 12, to express her appreciation for the opportunity afforded to her by the Ministry of Education (MOE) of China and AAFC. She had gained good experience and she will long remember the beautiful city of Ottawa!

Photo: Jianqiang Zhou, Yan Shen and Yvon Martele

Contact: Joe Zhou



There is no better than the Holiday Season to express our appreciation for your business and friendship!

May all the joy of the Season be yours!

Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for 2009 from the International Scientific Cooperation



Photo: Individuals from the International Scientific Cooperation

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